

WHAT IS CLAIM IS:

SUB D17

1. A buffer memory for storing a plurality of digital information blocks generated by a plurality of respective first users in an order established by said first users, wherein:

5 each of said digital information blocks is receivable by at least one of a plurality of second users,

each of said digital information blocks includes an indicia of the priority one of said users attaches to an associated one of said digital information blocks, and

10 one of said second users elects to receive one of said digital information blocks responsive to said indicia of a respective digital information block.

SUB E27

2. The buffer memory as recited in claim 1, wherein:

said digital information blocks are electronic medical images; and
said indicia is a bid price offered by said first users to said second users.

3. The buffer memory as recited in claim 1, wherein any one of said first users can freely change a respective indicia of the associated one of said digital information blocks.

SUB D27

4. A remote access medical image exchange system, comprising:

20 a first facility for converting a plurality of physical medical images into corresponding digital medical images and for storing the digital medical images in a remotely accessible data storage device, to thereby provide a remotely accessible electronic digital medical image database comprised of the stored digital medical images;

25 a second facility remote from the first facility, but in electronic communication therewith, for providing a diagnostic service provider with access to the electronic digital medical image database; and,

wherein the system is configured in such a manner as to enable the diagnostic service provider to select one or more of the digital medical images from the database for reading, at the discretion of the diagnostic service provider.

SUB E4

5. The system as set forth in Claim 4, wherein the remotely accessible data storage device comprises a server.

6. The system as set forth in Claim 4, wherein the remotely accessible data storage device comprises a mainframe computer.

7. The system as set forth in Claim 4, wherein the remotely accessible data storage device comprises a redundant array of inexpensive drives (RAID).

10 SUB D3

8. The system as set forth in Claim 4, wherein the first facility includes:
means for scanning the physical medical images and converting the scanned physical medical images into the corresponding digital medical images; and
the data storage device for storing the digital medical images.

add
RAID

add
B1

add
C1